



### **Iowa Status**

common, native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **anabaena**

*Anabaena spp.*

Kingdom: Monera  
Division/Phylum: Cyanophyta

### **Features**

Anabaena is a blue-green alga. It differs from green algae in that the cells don't have a distinct nucleus (control center), the pigment is spread throughout the cell, and it has a blue pigment in addition to the green chlorophyll. Anabaena resembles a string of beads with larger, empty cells scattered along the filament. (Nostoc is very similar to Anabaena, but the "strings" are in a gelatinous mass.)

### **Natural History**

Anabaena is found in all types of water. "Blooms" or massive growths can occur in waters with a lot of nutrients and they are common. These blooms discolor the water and give it a bad odor when the cells die and decay. It can reproduce asexually by cell division or by a strand breaking. Anabaena can produce its own food by photosynthesis.

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; bottomland forests